

Serial No. 10/763,786

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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A process control system, comprising:
a processor unit adapted to determine a payment figure from operations running in the process control system regarding the creation or removal of a process control function or regarding a user activity or regarding an execution of an automation function.
2. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
a process control computer;
a client computer; and
the Internet, wherein at least a part of the operations running in the process control system run on the process control computer.
3. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 2, further comprising:
at least one field device for automation of at least one system component, wherein at least a part of the operations running in the process control system run on the field device.
4. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 2, wherein the process control computer comprises a Web server and the client computer comprises an Internet browser so that the client computer can influence the operations running in the process control computer via the Internet, wherein the operations can also include operations by which further operations are initiated in further components of the process control system.
5. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 4, wherein the further components comprise field devices for monitoring and control of components of a technical system that are connected by radio communication and/or by a fixed link to the process control computer, wherein the further operations also comprise those operations that are executed in the field devices.

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6. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 5, wherein communication between the components of the process control system is based on the TCP/IP transmission protocol (TCP/IP).

7. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 1, wherein the payment figure is a service fee to be paid by the user of the process control system to an Application Service Provider.

8. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 3, wherein the process control computer comprises a Web server and the client computer comprises an Internet browser so that the client computer can influence the operations running in the process control computer via the Internet, wherein the operations can also include operations by which further operations are initiated in further components of the process control system.

9. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 2, wherein the payment figure is a service fee to be paid by the user of the process control system to an Application Service Provider.

10. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 3, wherein the payment figure is a service fee to be paid by the user of the process control system to an Application Service Provider.

11. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 4, wherein the payment figure is a service fee to be paid by the user of the process control system to an Application Service Provider.

12. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 5, wherein the payment figure is a service fee to be paid by the user of the process control system to an Application Service Provider.

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13. (previously presented) A process control system according to Claim 6, wherein the payment figure is a service fee to be paid by the user of the process control system to an Application Service Provider.

14. (currently amended) A method for ~~determine~~ determining a payment figure in a process control system, comprising:

providing a processor unit adapted to record the creation and/or removal of a process control function and an execution of an automation function;

providing a device adapted to record a user activity; and

determining a payment figure by the processor unit using recorded data of the preceding steps.